DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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SEVEN HOUR DAY FOR DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

The seven-hour working day will be introduced in the factories of the German Democratic Republic between now and 1960, it was announced in Berlin on March 24th. The reduction in hours will not be accompanied by any reduction in wages.

The announcement was made by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party and Deputy Premier, at the Party Conference held from March 24th to 29th.

Over 2000 delegates from factories, farms and officies, elected in the preceding weeks at meetings of local groups of the Party clapped and cheered Walter Ulbricht when he announced the plans to shorten working hours.

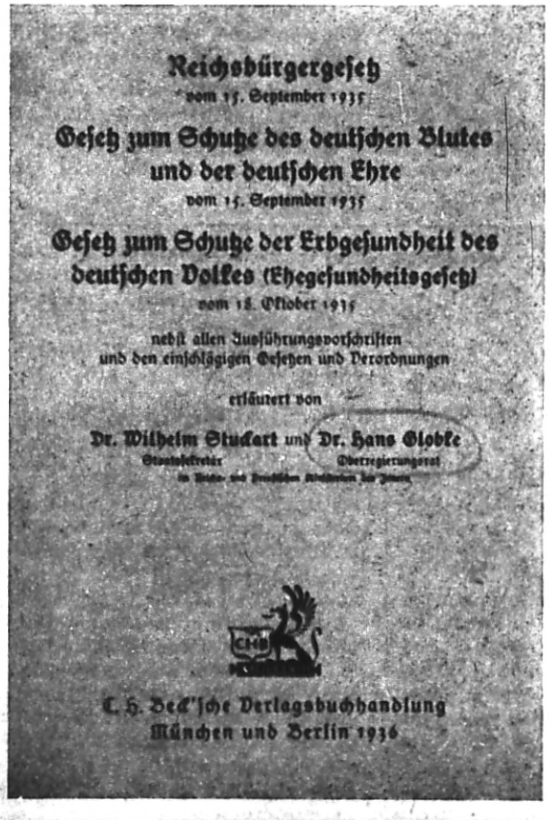
Other important developments announced by the First Secretary of the Party included the building of an atom-electric power plant before 1960, the construction of an aircraft industry turning out jet airliners, and important advances in television including the introduction of colour television.

Here are some of the main points made by Walter Ulbricht in his comprehensive speech which covered the whole field of developments envisaged in the German Democratic Republic in the period of the Second Five Year Plan (1956—60):

Working Hours

"The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party proposes that the Government and People's Chamber, together with the working class and the trade unions should create the conditions necessary for introducing the seven-hour working day in industry during the Second Five Year Plan, and in certain branches of industry the forty-hour week, without reduction of wages."

(cont. on next page)



DR GLOBKE

On the left you see a shameful document. It is the title page of a book published in 1936 in nazi Germany. It contains the text of three fascist laws, known throughout the world as the "Nuremberg Laws". The names of the laws are given on this title page: the "Reich Citizenship Law"; the "Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour"; and the "Law for the Protection of the Inherited Health of the German People".

These Nuremberg laws formed the basis on which the Jews of Germany were hounded from public, economic and cultural life, and stamped as "second-class human beings". They were the basis for their later deportation to the gas-chambers.

This book gives not only the text of these laws, but also a legal commentary, explaining how the laws are to be applied in practice. This commentary was written by SS Brigade Leader Dr Wilhelm Stuckart and Dr Hans Globke, both leading officials of the nazi Ministry of the Interior.

Today, this same Dr Hans Globke is State Secretary to West German Chancellor Adenauer, and is generally regarded as the second most powerful man in the West German state.

Now turn to page 63 and see what Dr Globke wrote in 1936.

(cont. from preceding page)

SEVEN HOUR DAY

The seven-hour day will be introduced in each branch of industry as soon as technical developments have made it certain that the shortening of the working day will not endanger the fulfillment of the plan. Efforts will be made to shorten the working day first in those factories where conditions are dangerous to health, and those factories mainly employing women.

"By introducing the seven-hour day in the German Democratic Republic we hope not only to improve the standards of the workers in the German Democratic Republic, but also to help the trade unions in West Germany in their fight for a cut in the very long hours of work there" Walter Ulbricht stated.

Technical Developments

In the technical field the industry of the German Democratic Republic must catch up with and overtake the most advanced industrial countries during the period of the Second Five Year Plan. This demands concentration on the development of automatisation, the peaceful use of atomic energy, the development of electronic devices and transistors, and a great extension of technical education.

"During the course of the Second Five Year Plan we shall build an atomic electric power plant in the German Democratic Republic. This is particularly important for us, since we have only limited sources of fuel and water power".

In the course of the Five Year Plan the big atomic research plant already under construction will produce all the radio-active isotopes, including radio-active cobalt, needed in the Republic.

Walter Ulbricht forecast that as a result of scientific work now being done in the field of transistors it would relatively soon be possible to convert sunlight directly into electrical energy. He recalled that the first faculty for atomic in physics in Germany had already been established at Dresden Technical High School, and urged the extension of such work to other universities. In addition, all schools, including the secondary schools, should provide pupils with elementary instruction thus providing the necessary reservoir of specialists for future developments.

Plane Construction

"In the First Five Year Plan we constructed a productive shipbuilding industry: during the Second Five Year Plan we shall devote our attention to the development of air-transport and plane construction. In the next few days the first transport plane built in the German Democratic Republic will take off for flight trials. At the same time we are developing propellor-turbine and jet air liners. It is planned that these planes will go into service with the Lufthansa during the period of the Second Five Year Plan."

Television

Walter Ulbricht announced that great strides were being made in the field of television, and particular in the industrial uses of television as an aid to automation. The difficult question of colour television was also being tackled.

Raising the Standard of Living

By 1960 it is planned to raise real wages for workers and office employees 30% above the present level. In the same period industrial production is scheduled to increase by 55%. The quantity of consumer goods available for the people will increase by 40%. Starting in 1957 there will be considerable increases in old-age and other pension.

German Re-unification

Walter Ulbricht repeated previous proposals made by the German Democratic Republic for the maintenance of peace and the preparation for re-unification. These proposals were:

a) Support by both German states for a European Collective Security agreement, and the reduction of the numbers of foreign troops stationed in Germany. A non-aggression pact between the two halves of Germany.

b) Rejection by both German states of all preparations for atomic war.

c) Agreement between the two German states on normalisation of relations in all possible economic and cultural fields.

"These proposals are acceptable not only to the workers and peasants in West Germany, but also to bourgeois circles with the exception of certain limited circles" Walter Ulbricht stated. "We do not expect that these proposals to be accepted without argument by West Germany. We would welcome an open exchange of opinions on the subject. The decisive fact is that the German people themselves have to decide upon the subject."

(Owing to the Easter holidays, this number of GERMAN REPORT had to go to press earlier than usual. In the next number we shall present a further report on the discussions and decisions of the Party Conference of the Socialist Unity Party.)

Eastern Atom Agreement

Leading atomic scientists from the German Democratic Republic attended an international conference, which began in Moscow on March 20th, at which plans were made for the formation of an "Eastern Institute for Atomic Research".

This institute is planned as a coordinating centre for atomic research in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

Building in Berlin

A total of 115,000 new apartments were built in East Berlin during the first Five Year Plan (1951—55), it was officially announced. Other building during the five year period included 27 schools, with places for 14,500 children, 27 libraries and 13 clubhouses.

During the current Five Year Plan, tens of thousands of further houses will be built in East Berlin. A large bombed-out area south of the Stalin Allee will be cleared and a completely new residential quarter will be built, mainly from pre-fabricated standardised parts.

United German Team for Olympics

The sportsmen of the two German states will combine to send one united German team to the Olympic Games in Melbourne, just as they did to the Winter Olympics in Cortina, it was announced on March 19th.

At a meeting in Munich the representatives of the National Olympic Committees of East and West Germany agreed that the combined German team, including officials, should be one hundred strong. The athletes participating will be selected from East and West purely on the basis of performance.

WHAT DR HANS GLOBKE REALLY WROTE IN HIS BOOK

(All quotations on this page are translated literally from the text of the official nazi commentary to the Nuremberg Laws written by Dr Hans Globke and SS Brigade Leader Dr Wilhelm Stuckart.)

"What have race, people and state to do with each other, what is race, what is people? It is necessary to clarify these definitions, since the opponents of the racial idea are attempting to confuse the thoughts of the German people in order to prevent the victory of the racial idea ... Racialist teachings show us that a certain attitude, a certain character, a certain creative ability are linked with certain physic characteristics". (p. 1)

"The mixing of races alien to each other destroys the unity and integrity of soul of the nation ... it produces a mixed race torn by internal dissension ... 'In many cases in which the race can hold out, the bastard collapses ('Mein Kampf', p. 442) ... National Socialism means a decisive turning away from the liberalistic principle of the equality of all ..." (p. 3)

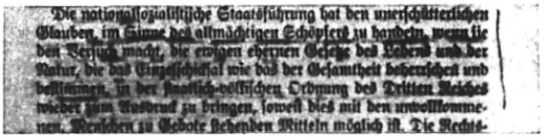
"The basis of the German nation is provided by the Nordic race ... The dominant Nordic race has given the German people its specific stamp."

"The highest aim of the folkish state is the maintenance and continuance of the folk formed by physically and mentally similar human beings. Since the blood-value of a folk is determined by the race which gives that folk its character, the conservation and improvement of the blood-value is only possible through racial culture". (p. 7)

Here is a photograph of the original German text of the paragraph translated above:

"The National Socialist leadership of the state believes unshakeably that it is acting in the spirit of the Almighty Creator in making the attempt to express again, in the state-folk order of the Third Reich, the eternal laws of life and nature which control and forsee the fate of the individual and the community, as far as this can be done by the means at the disposal of imperfect human beings." (p. 9)

Here is a photograph of the original German text:



"Since the Jewish people are, both in their blood and their inner character, of a completely different type from the German people, tension between the two is the necessary result of the fact that Jews live scattered throughout the German Reich.

"The two Nuremberg Laws, together with the regulations based upon them, contain the basic solution for this racial problem. They bring about a clear distinction between Germanness and Jewishness, based on blood, and thus provide the legal basis for a modus vivendi for all needs. Their basic importance consists in the fact that they prevent, for all time, the penetration of further Jewish blood into the German folk-body." (p. 15)

Here is a photograph of the original German text:

"It is thus made impossible for all time for Jews to mix with German folkness, or to intervene in the political, economic and cultural life of the Reich. The German people wish to maintain their blood and their culture pure ... The Jews must get used to the idea that their influence on German life has been brought to an end, once and for all." (p. 15)

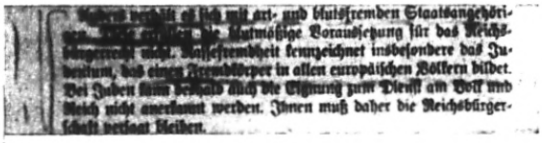
"The Reich Citizenship Law draws the political line: only those of German or similar blood can be citizens of the Reich. No Jew may be a citizen of the Reich ... The Law for the Protection of the Blood draws the line between Jewish and German blood in a biological sense ... The Jewish problem is not just a racial-biological problem. It must also be solved for the centuries to come in the political, economic and sociological fields." (p. 16)

"The problem of the German-Jewish mongrels is different from the Jewish question. A Jew is completely alien to us in blood and type. Thus dissimilation (opposite of assimilation, ed.) is the only possible solution. In the case of the mongrels the biological facts are different, since a mongrel has not only Jewish inherited features but also German ... The aim of a legal solution of the problem of the mongrels must be the speediest disappearance of the mongrel race." (p. 17)

(Dr Globke then devotes many paragraphs to exact definitions of quarter Jews, half Jews, three-quarter Jews, and so on. He gives many pages to the definition of the difference between "Reich Citizens" who may only be Aryans, and "Nationals of the State", which means Jews living in Germany as second-class persons.)

"The position is different with nationals of the state who are alien by type or blood. These people do not fulfil the blood-conditions for the right to be Reich Citizens. Alien race is a mark particularly of the Jews, who form an alien body in all European nations. The right to service for the folk and the Reich cannot be recognised in the case of Jews. They must therefore be refused recognition as Reich Citizens." (p. 28)

Here is a photograph of the original German text:



(After this 30-page introduction, which is richly sprinkled with quotations from Hitler and other racialist

authorities, the book gives the full text of the Nuremberg Laws, followed by 200 pages of detailed interpretation of each single clause of these laws.)

* * *

West German Chancellor Adenauer declared in an interview on March 20th that he had no intention of sacking Globke. He described him as a man "with an unusual sense of duty, good memory, enormous knowledge of persons and outstanding intelligence" and said that he was confident that Dr Globke could only have written the commentary to the Nuremberg Laws with the aim of weakening the effect of these laws.

Commenting on the "explanation" given by Chancellor Adenauer, the West German "Central Board of Jews" stated:

"We are unaware that Jewish lives were saved as a result of any sort of commentary to the Nuremberg Laws. We do know, on the other hand, that these laws led to the criminal murder of 6 million men, women and children, whose only crime in the eyes of the National Socialists was that they had been born as Jews. A jurist who sank so low as to provide a pseudo-scientific commentary to barbaric injustice, has violated the moral basis of human co-existence, and lost the right to participate in the noble service of justice."

Throughout the nazi period Dr Globke worked in the nazi Ministry of the Interior, for a large part of the time as "Specialist on Jewish Questions". During the war he drafted a memorandum proposing the complete incorporation of the eastern third of France in the German Reich. This memorandum was produced at the Nuremberg Trials as document RF 602. As a result of his wartime activities, Dr Globke was sought after the war as a war criminal, listed under the No. 101 on the War Criminal List prepared by the United Nations.

* * *

Here are some recent comments on Dr Globke and his activities:

"Dr Globke would be more at home in Franco Spain than in the German Federal Republic"

Dr Thomas Dehler, leader of the West German Free Democratic Party.

"Dr Globke's commentary to the Nuremberg Laws is nothing less than murder committed with the aid of legal paragraphs. And Dr Globke knew this when he wrote the commentary"

Dr Adolf Arndt, Social Democratic Member of the West German Parliament.

"Dr Globke is a soulless jurist, who threw the mantle of his 'knowledge' over a monument of deadly illegality. Globke did the nazis a great service, and one might have expected that after the catastrophic 'final solution' of the Jewish problem this fact might have got him into difficulties. Nothing happened to him, however."

"Le Monde", Paris, March 20th 1956

NAZIS IN THE NEWS

Dr Manfred Klaiber

State Secretary and Chief of Chancellery to the West German President. During the nazi period Dr Klaiber served in responsible positions in the German Embassies in Paris, Pretoria, Batavia und Belgrade. During the war he was Legation Counsellor at the nazi embassy in Turkey. In this position he was responsible for organising the sinking in December 1941 of the Jewish refugee ship "Struma", with the loss of about 800 lives. Dr Klaiber notified nazi naval units of the exact time when the ship would leave the harbour of Istanbul, and a German E-boat was waiting at the entrance of the Bosphorus ready to sink the ship.

Dr Goercke

On February 16th the West Berlin City Council approved the appointment of Dr Goercke as West Berlin's chief public prosecutor. During the nazi period Dr Goercke was an officer in Hitler's brownshirted SA, and a chief public prosecutor in nazi courts.

Hasso von Etzdorf

Today department head in the West German Embassy in Paris. From 1939 to 1945 Hasso von Etzdorf was nazi Foreign Ministry representative attached to the Supreme Command of Hitler's army. After the fall of France he organised the activities of the "Kuenzberg Commando", a special nazi unit charged with looting art treasures. Von Etzdorf joined the nazi party in June 1933, with membership number 3,286,356, and was a high-ranking officer in the brown-shirted Storm Troops.

Bishop Georg Werthmann

Newly appointed Catholic Chaplain General of the West German Wehrmacht. He occupied the same position in Hitler's Wehrmacht, and proudly wore the swastika on his uniform. When a Catholic priest, Dr Josef Fleischer, was called up for chaplain's service but refused to swear an oath of allegiance to Hitler, Dr Werthmann visited him in prison, personally struck him, ordered him in the name of the church to swear the oath, and threatened to have him executed if he did not obey.

Hans-Egon Engell

At the beginning of February 1956 he was named as member of an ad-hoc committee of the West German Parliament formed to consider "measures to be taken against neo-nazi tendencies". Herr Engell, who represents the BHE (Refugee Party) in the West German Parliament, is well informed on this question: He joined the nazi party in 1931, and worked as an instructor in the foreign department of the party; he was appointed nazi Prime Minister of Mecklenburg in August 1933, and held the rank of Oberfuehrer in Hitler's black-uniformed S.S.

Pensions for Nazis

Nazi Grand Admiral Raeder was sentenced to life imprisonment for war crimes by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. He was released on health grounds in September 1955. It has now been revealed that since that date he has been drawing a monthly pension of 2240 marks (about 200 pounds sterling). There is no West German legislation under which he can be deprived of this pension.

* * *

"About 85 percent of the middle and high-ranking Nazi Party and SS leaders are again drawing their pensions ... and have received large back payments (in Bavaria), State Secretary Weishaeupti of the Bavarian Ministry of Labour announced. About 30% get monthly pensions of 500 marks (over 40 pounds sterling), and 18% get 1000 marks (over 90 pounds sterling)."

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, March 10th 1956.

How Our Factory Helps Women

By Dr Nellies, Buna Chemical Factory

Very many women work in the great Buna Chemical Works, one of the giant nationally owned enterprises in the German Democratic Republic. Women working in factories have many special problems. How are these problems tackled in a Socialist state? Dr Nellies, works director, told of some of the problems and how they were being tackled in his factory in a recent speech, extracts from which are given below.

... We have modernised our laundry, for instance, although some of the men did not see the need for it. We now turn out in the Buna Works one million pounds of dry laundry every year for our workers. Not damp or mangled wash, but perfectly ironed and at very favourable prices. And we have made things even easier by opening collecting centres, in Halle, Ammondorf and other places, so that our workers do not have to bring their washing all the way to the laundry.

We have a big directors' fund, and with state help in addition we opened a creche for 90 babies and small children last year which is one of the finest in the whole Republic. If you go and have a look at this creche, and at the children's weekly home for 150 children which was also opened last year, you will see for yourselves how much thought the architects gave to every little detail, and how good the work of doctors, nurses and kindergarten teachers is. It should not be forgotten that this building cost us nearly one million marks. There is a spendid gymnasium, a separate laundry, children's dining-room and fine tiled bathrooms.

We have tried to help our women workers as much as possible and to show all our workers that Socialism is not just an abstraction but should serve steadily to improve the life and well-being of every one of us.

It need not always be big cultural palaces which we build, or things which cost a great deal of money, but our fellow-workers must have the feeling that they are being looked after and that efforts are being made to relieve them of daily worries and cares. This is what I call practical Socialism — a Socialism which is not only concerned with vast plans but which also looks after the small things which can make life so much easier and pleasanter.

Amongst these smaller things I should like to mention the complete shopping complex which we have set up in the last two years. Opposite the works there is a HO (state trading organisation) complex, where really efficient shop assistants dispense a very wide range of goods. We made it clear to the HO that they must send their best goods and their best shop assistants to us, and we have now a very fine grocery, general store and textile shop. But we did not stop here; we discussed opening and closing times with the HO, so that our shops now open at 6 a.m. and are always open at shift-changing times. Workers can hand in their orders (on printed sheets on which they can cross off what they want) and fetch the things before going home. You can also order by telephone and purchases can be delivered if desired. This all cost money and time, but we were sure that the improvements would also have a good influence on work; our workers would be more cheerful and take more pleasure in their work, so that we should get back what we spent and more.

Another big improvement which was suggested by the works women's committee was in the living conditions for single women, especially those with children. There are a large number of single women working here, and many of them have not only children but also parents or younger brothers and sisters dependent upon them. We men had hardly realised that there must also be women who had to support relatives. So during the last four years we have seen to it that 193 single women and women with dependents got apartments of their own.

Women are a very important factor in our works, and we are deeply interested in helping them, not only because they are women and because of their work, but because they are the carriers of life itself ...

Police Raid Progressive West German Organisations

West German police raided the offices of a number of progressive West German organisations on March 15th, seizing files and arresting employees.

The raids were aimed against offices of the German-Soviet Friendship Society, the National Front, Socialist Action (an organisation of progressive Social Democrats), and the Committee for Unity and Freedom in German Sport.

In Herne, police raided a meeting of the "Falken", official Social Democratic youth organisation, and seized a copy of the Japanese anti-war film "Children of Hiroshima" which was being shown.

Diego Rivera in Berlin

Diego Rivera, great Mexican painter, arrived in East Berlin on March 21st for a short visit. Rivera was last year made a corresponding member of the German Academy of Arts.

Escaped West German Youth Leader Greeted

Thousands of young Berliners gave a triumphal reception to Wolfgang Seiffert, West German youth leader, when he arrived in East Berlin on March 16th. Seiffert, one of the leaders of the Free German Youth in West Germany, was sentenced to four years imprisonment by the West German Supreme Court last year on trumped-up charges of high treason. He escaped from Anrath prison on January 22nd, and has now reached safety in the German Democratic Republic.

German-Soviet Friendship Banned

The provincial governments of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Bremen announced on February 24th that the German-Soviet Friendship Society had been banned in their areas. Police raided the offices of the society and confiscated large quantities of pamphlets calling for better understanding between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic.

Kidnapped Archbishops?

In the British House of Commons on March 12th a Conservative member tried to make some propaganda points out of the tired old subject of people allegedly kidnapped from the western sectors of Berlin. Mr Emrys Hughes, Labour member for South Ayrshire brought a rapid conclusion to the questioning when he posed the supplementary question: "How many people kidnapped in Berlin were Archbishops?"

LETTER BOX

... Perhaps an occasional factual article on religion in East Germany. I suggest this not because, as a priest, it would naturally be of great interest to me personally, but because the truth is not easy to get at, and the capitalist press gladly distorts the slightest thing into an example of "religious persecution". We in England are not particularly religious, but it is surprising how any suggestion of persecution arouses unreasoning antagonism in people who would never pretend to have any religion themselves.

Rev. P. K., London

Ex-Nazis

... The recurrence of fascism in Germany (and here also, I may say) is one of the most acute problems faced by the peoples of the world today. With shameless disregard for the lessons of history, our national leaders are today rearming West Germany, installing ex-Nazis in top posts and even equipping the Wehrmacht with the latest in atomic, hydrogen and bacteriological weapons ...

R. B., Indianapolis, USA

Biographies

I want biographical information about Ministers and Members of Parliament in the German Democratic Republic.

A. E., Matse, Gold Coast

Good and Bad

A. I should like in general to see a bit more human interest — eg. some interviews with a variety of East Germans on their experiences — good and bad, in fulfilling the Five Year Plan; more about the content of East German cultural life; a follow-up on the questions asked in the youth week, etc.

B. It would also be helpful to have more information regarding the women's movement throughout Germany, which must be of considerable significance, arising as it did out of a period when women had been forced very much into the background.

C. I should welcome a correspondence column between British and German peoples, especially from cities like Coventry and Clydebank as a further link in the peace movement.

D. In view of West Germany's resurgence as a trading competitor of Britain and an East Germany which is probably a potential buyer of our goods, some development of this question would be helpful.

E. Berlin Notebook — might go roving, with guest artists, into other cities and into the country-side.

Mrs. R. F., Glasgow

Queries

1. Could you perhaps have a picture on page 1?

2. A regular feature on the Western Press, giving quotations from various papers about happenings in the German Democratic Republic and your replies to them.

3. A series of articles on how the government of the GDR tackled:

a. housing (private building? local authorities etc.?)

b. education (Nazi teachers? "Hitler Youth" outlook?)

c. food (quantities and prices, please — not percentages!)

4. Articles in the form of interviews between some of the foreign visitors (from the West) and ordinary citizens of the Republic. This, I feel, will impress British readers more than propaganda statements by the GDR government.

T. A. B., Newcastle

Jewish Life

Tell us about Jewish life in the community in East Germany, steps taken to eradicate racialism by working class organisations.

Reports of organisations and movements against war and rearmament.

Stories of the life of ordinary working class people in East Germany, their homes, families, work, wages and purchasing power, activities in sport etc. Legislation in the German Democratic Republic.

M. C., London

Railwaymen

I think the article on railwaymen in the January issue is a good example. If this could be followed by other industries, for my part of course I would like more information about miners.

C. P., Swansea

Basic Industries

... But I feel that it is time for the front page of DGR to give credit or otherwise to achievement and progress in the economy and growth of the Republic. This could be done by taking one of the basic industries each fortnight. Also I believe that as sport means so much to national character, a column on sport, especially this Olympic year, would answer many a wish.

We in Britain are very concerned about automation of industry as it will affect us under the capitalists.

I would like to read in DGR the Republic's attitude toward automation, its progress so far and the possible effects in the future. Such articles, from the various democracies, give us guidance and an objective to aim at.

A. W. J. C., Welwyn Garden City

(The letters above are just a small part of the flood of suggestions and criticisms we have received in the past few weeks. All these suggestions will be borne in mind, and we hope to meet some of the requests very shortly.)

Statistics

... Not only is the truth about East Germany suppressed here but about most of what goes on in West Germany as well. I think there should be more direct contrasts made, for example, one of the most effective things you ever did was the double feature page on history books in East and West Germany. Some well chosen statistical information could be usefully treated like this. Other items could be, number of doctors per head and health centres, factory welfare comparisons and wage raises, hospital beds, unemployment figures and so on. ... There is great interest here in the work of Bertolt Brecht, and a feature about him would be useful and also some quotes and specimens of his work ... Then there could be more cultural news and things like gramophone notes.

D. W., London

(We shall try to give more direct East-West comparisons. An article on Brecht is planned for an early issue.)

Music

... Music in general is very rarely touched upon. Again, a series of simple instruction in the German language, with the phonetic spelling of common words would, I think, be appreciated. How about an article on the romantic towns of Leipzig, Weimar, Dresden and the activities going on there today?

D. McG., Dalmuir, Scotland

(No room for a language corner, we fear.)

CALLING ON HERR KRUPP

By Margot Pfannstiel

I have visited many castles and museums, some more and some less interesting, but the most unusual was the "Villa Huegel", a sort of robbers' castle in Essen, West Germany, owned by the Krupp family, famous cannon kings who made huge fortunes out of the two World Wars, which I visited a few weeks ago.

It is not a mediaeval castle with crumbling walls and torture chambers, though; its owners are very much alive and have only recently moved out. The "knight of the castle" rides out in a speedy sportscar, is a chain-smoker and a convict — a fact which is tactfully never mentioned.

I paid a mark and went in with a group of economics students. There was a guide who gave the usual introduction: "The villa was built at the end of the 1860's by Alfred Krupp. It contains 350 rooms . . ."

Near the entrance are two oversize portraits, of Wilhelm II and Hindenburg. "And where is Hitler?" I asked. The guide ignored my question and some students glanced warningly at me. "Aha", I thought, "such remarks are not allowed." So I took him aside and asked in a confidential whisper: "Where did it hang?" The guide coughed: "That's not in the guide-book."

We stopped in front of a huge painting, an "imposing and wonderfully true-to-life" picture of Dr Gustav Krupp, Frau Berta Krupp and their seven dear little ones. The guide's baton gently touched the rosy heads: "That is Harald. He returned from Russian imprisonment on October 11th 1955, at exactly 3 pm."

"Wasn't that the transport train which also brought back Clauberg, the concentration camp murderer?" I asked.

"I don't know anything about that, and it has nothing to do with the business anyway." The guide was really annoyed.

"Yes, but I only meant that that was not the right company for poor Mr Harald", I murmured.

"And that is Alfried, our present honoured chief."

"Also let out too soon — uh — I mean released early . . ."

No answer to that one!

We went into the library, with its 28,000 volumes. "Yes, yes, the Krupps are very highly cultured people" said our guide. "Take a look at the park. It can be regarded as the sole creation of Alfred Krupp. He loved trees and as there were no fine old trees on the hill he had whole avenus transplanted — thousands of old trees. It was a big job, and the best gardeners in the world worked on it. Herr Krupp even had special flat cars built to transport the trees."

"That must have cost a lot of money" I said.

"Oh yes" said our guide, "but no-one grudged him the pleasure."

We wandered through salons and flower rooms to the marble hall. The walls everywhere were covered with old Gobelin tapestries. Portraits hung in a separate gallery.

I counted the wardrobes in Herr Krupp's dressing-room — there were 38. "How many pairs of trousers had he?" I asked.

"There must have been a very large number" answered the guide, not quite sure how to take my question. "Herr Krupp had to entertain a great deal. He received many guests . . ."

"Yes," I nodded, "like old Goering . . ."

"And this is Frau Krupp's dressing-room. I don't take you in here because Frau Krupp still has her things here. There is less room in the new house and she is very much attached to her old clothes."

"How touching!"

"Yes, isn't it? I can tell you many other touching incidents. Our present chief, Herr Alfried Krupp, was brought up in a very middle-class way. He had to go through his apprentice-ship. His father paid for his weekly season ticket and he had to go to work by train just like the others."

"That's really touching", I said, taking out my handkerchief, "and he bought his red Simson racing car with the money he saved up out of his apprentices' pay."

On the first floor we came to an enormous hall with a domed glass ceiling.

"A railway station!" I clapped my hands in ecstasy.

"But, madam, this is a ceremonial hall!" This time the guide was seriously angry with me.

"But the roof . . ." I whispered.

"That is a technical masterpiece."

Reduced to silence by so much bad taste, I followed the students into the Emperor's room. "Here the last German Kaiser lived for two days in 1917. Since then it has not been used."

The students grinned at me; they expected a question from me and I did not like to disappoint them.

"Isn't that the guest who had to go abroad a year later because the wicked Krupp workers wanted to beat him up? All sorts of things happened here in 1918, the Revolution and the Red Army of the Ruhr . . ."

At the word "red" the guide started. "They were Communists", he said meaningfully.

At the end of the conducted view the guide wiped the beads of sweat from his brow. I shook him warmly by the hand.

"It was very interesting. But I have just one more question. Does this all belong to Herr Krupp?"

"Yes."

"But wasn't his entire property confiscated in 1947?"

The guide drew himself up and stood to attention.

"Thanks to the understanding attitude of the Allies this decision was annulled."

(Abridged from "Wochenpost", Berlin)

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Often in the past I have mentioned in the Notebook some of the very good plays and films on show in East Berlin. I have generally not mentioned the mediocre productions, simply because they were uninteresting, but last week a play was produced which bored me so much that I think it is worthy of a note.

The play, entitled "The Path to Fuessen", consists of a series of unexceptionable sentiments of an anti-fascist nature. But goodwill on the stage is not enough: a play must also have some dramatic qualities. These were entirely lacking, and the play dragged along as a series of monologues, which to make matters worse were in blank verse. Hitler speaking in blank verse like a Shakespearean villain takes a lot of stomaching.

To my mind the only interesting thing about this new play was its author: Johannes R. Becher, Minister of Culture of the German Democratic Republic. Herr Becher is a very good Minister of Culture, and a poet of considerable stature into the bargain. What he is not, on the evidence of his new play, is a dramatist.

Better Plays

But not all theatre evenings are as grim as the very long three hours which I spent watching "The Path to Fuessen". In fact the very contrary is the case. In East Berlin we have the Berliner Ensemble, Bertolt Brecht's theatre, which many critics in both east and west regard as the finest theatre in Europe today, with its fabulously good productions of "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" and "Mother Courage", both by Bertolt Brecht.

The Berliner Ensemble, like most continental theatres, has four or five plays permanently on the programme, and each of these plays is performed once or twice a week in rotation. "Mother Courage", one of the finest anti-war plays ever written, has now been played about twice a week for nearly eight years, and since performances are permanently sold out they can go on playing it for ever if the actors can stand it.

When is London going to get a chance to see a really good production of "Mother Courage" and other Brecht plays? Now that East-West cultural exchanges are really getting under way at last, there would seem to be a good chance. And in exchange, people in East Berlin would be thrilled to see some of Shakespeare's plays, or other British theatre, played by a really good British troupe.

Of course, as long as the British Government pretends that the German Democratic Republic does not exist, that complicates cultural exchanges.

Although the British Government is still playing ostrich in this respect, the BBC Television Service seems to have got its head out of the sand. The TV boys have realised that even the non-existent German Democratic Republic has a television service, and that even though this service is in its infancy it can provide some film material which the BBC can use in its own programmes.

In exchange, the BBC Television is providing the TV of the Democratic Republic with short films, and the first of these has just been shown to viewers in East Germany. It is an excellent short documentary on London, called "We Live by the River", and I had the pleasure of writing and speaking the German commentary when it was transmitted on March 29th.

This short film reminded me of what an attractive city my native London is, and I was glad to have a chance to show many tens of thousands of East German viewers that London is not always cloaked in fog, as popular legend has it. I hope there will be a big increase in such exchanges between the T. V. systems soon. Incidentally, there is no technical reason why Britain and the German Democratic Republic should not exchange live programmes, since the intervening countries are already linked by the Eurovision network. In its turn East Berlin already has a television link extending eastwards to Prague and Bratislava, the link to Warsaw is due in a few months, and the further link to Moscow will then not be far away. As soon as this link is completed, it will be technically possible to send live programmes right across Europe from one end to another.

So viewers in Britain may soon be watching the Moscow Ballet direct from Moscow, or a direct transmission of a football match from the Dynamo Stadium, thanks to the facilities of the TV network of the German Democratic Republic, amongst other countries.

But to return to the theatre in East Berlin: I find that many people in the western world suffer from the illusion that theatres in East Germany produce nothing but plays by Russian authors.

I have just been looking at some statistics for 1955, and these figures show that this is very far from being the case. Over half of all the plays produced in the many theatres of the German Democratic Republic were by German authors, ranging from Goethe to Brecht. Only about one play in ten was by a Russian or Soviet author, and almost as many plays by British and Irish dramatists were staged in the same period. A fair proportion of French, Polish, Spanish and other plays were put on during the year.

In fact only America seems to come out of the comparison badly. Which is partly due to the fact that when theatres in the German Democratic Republic want to stage a modern American play, like Arthur Miller's "Witch Hunt" for instance, the American publishers refuse to grant them permission.

Braeutigam

In our issue of March 2nd this year we printed extracts from the sensational war diary of Dr Braeutigam, old nazi who is now department head in the West German Foreign Ministry. Under the date September 14th 1941 Dr Braeutigam described in his diary how he travelled to Hitler's headquarters to get permission for the deportation of all Jews from Central Europe. After being passed on from one official to another, he finally managed to hand over the plan to one of Hitler's aides. He concluded his diary entry for this date with the words: "Glad to have been able to carry out my mission, I returned to my quarters."

Dr Braeutigam has now given what he considers to be a satisfactory explanation of this extremely incriminating passage in his diary. His explanation, printed in the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" on March 21st 1956 runs as follows:

"After I had run from one officer to the next, until late in the afternoon, **and nobody had invited me to lunch,** I was glad to be able to drive the thirty kilometers back to my quarters."

The explanation is astounding in its naivity. After setting in motion the wheels that would lead to the murder of millions of Jews, all Dr Braeutigam was worried about was the fact that nobody had asked him to lunch.

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